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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Frank E. Ruch  
Serial No. : 09/542,121  
Filed : April 4, 2000  
Title : LACTOSE HYDROLYSIS

Art Unit : 1652  
Examiner : Manjunath N. Rao

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE

In response to the action mailed March 26, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Cancel claims 2, 14-24, and 31-36 without prejudice as directed to a non-elected invention.

Please amend claims 3, 10, 12, and 26 as follows:

A1  
-- 3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Streptococcus*, *Aerococcus*, *Carnobacterium*, *Enteroccus*, *Erysipelothrix*, *Gemella*, *Globicatella*, *Lactobacillus*, *Lactococcus*, *Bifodobacteria*, *Leuconostoc*, *Pediococcus*, *Tetragenococcus*, and *Bagococcus bacteria*.

A2  
10. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the bacterium is permeabilized by an agent selected from the group consisting of a chemical, a solvent, and a detergent.

A3  
12. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the detergent is selected from the group consisting of deoxycholate, sodium dodecyl sulfate, rhamnolipid, and chenodeoxycholate.

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7/26/02  
K. Hutchins